(b) the total number of mentally-challenged persons in the country, State-wise;

(c) the growth rate of mentally-challenged persons during the last five years; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The States which have their own mental hospitals are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, NCT of Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The State-wise data on persons suffering from mental disorders is not available. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1% to 2% of the population has major mental disorders and 5% and 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) The number of mentally challenged persons (which includes those suffering from mental illness and those with mental retardation) is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world-wide.

(d) The Government lias already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the Country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 27 districts covering 22 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level, by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

Proposal to set up gas-based power plant in AIIMS

17. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND AMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a gas-based power plant in order to maintain constant power supply for AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed power plant would also supply power to Safdarjung Hospital; and

(d) by when the power plant is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up a gas-based power plant of 21.6 MW is under consideration of AIIMS. The proposal had been framed by BHEL and had been got scrutinized by the institute from IIT, Delhi. Further technical scrutiny is currently «inder process.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) If the project is found to be feasible techno-economically, subject to availability of funds, the proposal will be placed before the EFC.

News-item, "Doctors in a fix over pre-natal test rules"

18. SHRI KARNENDUBHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Doctors in a fix over pre-natal test rules", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 4th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem raised in the news-item ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government has seen the news-item. According to the news-item, some doctors are fearing that:—

(i) the proposed amendments to the Prc-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 would prevent routine ultrasonography to diagnose diseases in women.